



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

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Second District

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Third District

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Fifth District

May 14, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

Port Security Grants

On May 10, 2007, the Department of Homeland Security announced final awards totaling \$202.3 million from the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007 Port Security Grant Program, including \$15.4 million in awards for port security in Los Angeles County. The County Sheriff's Department received a grant award of \$2.25 million to purchase a vessel, equipped with chemical, biological, radiation, nuclear, and explosives screening capabilities, which will be used in screening and boarding of ships prior to their arrival in area ports.

Pursuit of County Position

State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP): On March 13, 2007, Representative Linda Sanchez (D-CA) introduced H.R. 1512, which would allow state and local governments to claim SCAAP reimbursement for incarcerating undocumented aliens who were charged, but not convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors. Under current law, only the costs of incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors are eligible for reimbursement. The bill would increase the County's SCAAP revenue by expanding the definition of reimbursable SCAAP costs. H.R. 1512 is identical to SCAAP legislation introduced by

Representative Sanchez in the 108th and 109th Sessions of Congress, which were not enacted.

Based on the Federal Agenda adopted by your Board, which includes a policy supporting proposals which would reduce the County's criminal justice system costs associated with criminal aliens, such as by providing increased Federal reimbursement of County costs, **the County's Washington advocates will support H.R. 1512 or similar legislation, which would increase Federal reimbursement of the County's undocumented criminal alien costs.**

Prosecutor and Public Defender Student Loan Repayments: There are two similar bills, S. 442 (Durbin, D-IL) and H.R. 916 (Scott, D-GA), pending before Congress, which would establish a student loan repayment program for borrowers who agree to work for at least three years as prosecutors or public defenders. Under both bills, eligible attorneys would receive student loan debt repayments of up to \$10,000 per year, subject to a maximum lifetime limit of \$60,000. H.R. 916 authorizes \$25 million a year for six fiscal years, beginning in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008, while S. 442 authorizes \$25 million in funding for this program in FFY 2008 and such sums as may be necessary for the next five fiscal years. H.R. 916 is scheduled for House floor action on May 15, 2007, while S. 442, which was reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee last month, has not yet been scheduled for Senate floor action. Senator Durbin and Representative Scott introduced similar bills, S. 2039 and H.R. 198, which failed to move in the 109th Congress.

These bills address the problem that many law school graduates are unwilling to work in the public sector because government salaries are low relative to rising student loan debt burdens. The County's District Attorney and Public Defender both support the legislation because the student debt problem has made it difficult for them to recruit and retain attorneys. Based on the Federal Agenda adopted by your Board, which includes a policy to support proposals which would provide for the cancellation of student loans for public defenders and prosecutors, **the County's Washington advocates will support S. 442 and H.R. 916 or similar legislation, which would provide financial relief from student loans for prosecutors and public defenders.**

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:MT:acn

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist